

CLAIMS

1. A method for preparing a fabricated leaf tea product comprising mixing leaf tea with tea solids derived from tea powders, the method being characterised in that the mixture of tea leaves and tea powder is simultaneously wetted and dried.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the amount of tea powder mixed with the leaf tea is between about 10 and about 75% of the weight of the leaf tea
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the fabricated leaf tea product is dried to about 3 to about 8% moisture
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the mixing of the leaf tea and the tea powder and the simultaneous wetting and drying are performed in a fluidised bed
5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the mixture of leaf tea and tea powder is wetted by spraying hot water on to the fluidised bed.
6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the hot water is at a temperature in the range about 30 to about 60°C
7. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the temperature of the fluidised bed is in the range about 35 to about 50°C
8. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the temperature of the fluidised bed is about 35°C